

**DOE Weekly Field Memo – June 9, 2010**

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**[Memo from Commissioner Vilaseca Regarding FY2012 Budgets](#)**

**Audience: Superintendents, Technical Center Directors, School Board Chairs, Principals and Business Managers**

This memo from Commissioner Vilaseca is advanced notice of an important FY 2012 budget issue all school districts, supervisory unions and technical centers must face. An [Act Relating to Implementation of Challenges for Change, H. 792](#), has recently been signed by the Governor. The purpose of the legislation was to respond positively to our significantly reduced state revenues resulting from the severe recession we have experienced. This legislation identifies key outcomes for state government programs and how those will be accomplished with reduced funding. To view the complete memo, visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/maindept.html#H792>.

Contact: Bill Talbott at [bill.talbott@state.vt.us](mailto:bill.talbott@state.vt.us)

**[Vermont Professional Development Network Leaders Needed](#)**

**Audience: Principals, Curriculum Coordinators, Classroom Teachers**

The department is seeking enthusiastic and experienced educators to fill available positions as VPD/Network leaders in literacy, mathematics, science and social studies. New network leaders will join the established network leader system and work in collaboration with department content coordinators to develop professional development resources for the implementation of the *Common Core Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts*. Go to [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_curriculum.html#leaders](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum.html#leaders) for more information. Applications are due no later than **June 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

Contact: For further information on literacy positions, contact Marty Gephart (802 828-1462) or [marty.gephart@state.vt.us](mailto:marty.gephart@state.vt.us); For math or science positions, contact Kathy Renfrew (802 828-6561) or [kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us](mailto:kathy.renfrew@state.vt.us); or Gail Hall (802 828-0156) or [gail.hall@state.vt.us](mailto:gail.hall@state.vt.us); For social studies positions, contact Sigrid Lumbra at (802) 828-0200 or [sigrid.lumbra@state.vt.us](mailto:sigrid.lumbra@state.vt.us)

**[Child Nutrition Summer Institute](#)**

**Audience: Food Service Staff, Principals**

The Child Nutrition Programs Summer Institute provides a range of one-, two- and three-day courses for school and child care food service personnel. This year it will be held August 9 – 13 at Spaulding High School in Barre. Course topics will include working with and cooking whole foods, increasing whole grains in menus, food safety, HACCP, financial management, plus an information session for staff new to school meals programs and child and adult day centers. There will be two sessions for school administrators and school office assistant staff who work with management, approval and verification of free and reduced meal applications. The department will also be offering a session on the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program to learn more about this wonderful opportunity. Visit

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#nutrition> for more information and to register.

Contact: Cheryl Barrows at (802) 828-2447 or [cheryl.barrows@state.vt.us](mailto:cheryl.barrows@state.vt.us)

**[New England Arts Assessment Institute 2010](#)**

**Audience: Arts Educators**

New England Arts Assessment Institute, a collaboration of the Vermont and New Hampshire Departments of Education will take place August 3-6, 2010 at Plymouth State University (PSU), Plymouth, NH. This high quality professional development training is available to K-16 music, visual art, theatre, dance and classroom teachers. Strands include Curriculum Writing in the Arts using Understanding by Design, Arts Assessment 101 (for beginners), Arts Leadership, Competency-based Learning, and Researched-based

Arts Integration Techniques. This may be the only PD for arts teachers offered in 2010-2011. Three graduate credits are available through PSU. Get the brochure and registration materials at <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#art>.  
Contact: Gail Kilkelly, Coordinator for Arts Education, at (802) 828-6560 or [gail.kilkelly@state.vt.us](mailto:gail.kilkelly@state.vt.us)

### **Foundations for Early Learning III (FEL) 2010 Summer Institute**

**Audience: Early Education, Head Start Programs, Early Childhood & Family Mental Health, Early Intervention, Early Essential Education, Early Care & Education, Health, VT Family Network, UVM/area Colleges**

Deadline extended – There is still space available for the 2010 Summer's Foundation for Early Learning (FEL) Train-the-Trainer Institute. FEL is a statewide early childhood initiative that supports social/emotional competence, confidence and early literacy learning of children birth through 6 years of age. This institute will be held July 20-23, 2010 (FEL 1) Location: Sleepy Hollow Inn, Huntington; October 18-19, 2010 (FEL 2) location: TBA. To download an application, visit:

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#fel\\_1](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html#fel_1).

Kate Rogers, Early Essential Education Consultant, (802) 828-5115 or [kate.rogers@state.vt.us](mailto:kate.rogers@state.vt.us)

### **From the Agency of Human Services:**

#### **Agency of Human Services Challenges for Change Request for Proposals**

**Audience: Special Education Directors, Principals and Superintendents**

In accordance with the Challenges for Change legislation passed by the 2010 legislature, AHS is requesting proposals for community based initiatives to improve outcomes for Vermonters while creating structural and sustainable change in how human services are provided, through performance based contracts. The Agency is seeking broad, innovative proposals that integrate various aspects of human services to maximize efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery.

Contact: Patrick Flood, Deputy Secretary, Agency of Human Services, at (802) 241-2244 or [patrick.flood@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:patrick.flood@ahs.state.vt.us)

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#### **Weekly Field Memo is Online!**

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field\\_memo.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html). Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or [jill.remick@state.vt.us](mailto:jill.remick@state.vt.us).

#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.

**AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES  
CHALLENGES FOR CHANGE  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS  
JUNE, 2010**

**I. Goal**

In accordance with the Challenges for Change legislation passed by the 2010 legislature, AHS is requesting proposals for community based initiatives to improve outcomes for Vermonters while creating structural and sustainable change in how human services are provided, through performance based contracts. The Agency is seeking broad, innovative proposals that integrate various aspects of human services to maximize efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery.

**II. Proposal Requirements**

**A. Proposals shall be designed to:**

1. Meet outcomes for Vermonters as described in Act 68 of the 2010 session and attached to this Request for Proposals as Attachment A.
2. Provide for structural change in the method of service delivery by integrating, combining or streamlining services in the local community for clients of the agency with complicated social and medical issues in a client-centered manner.
3. Demonstrate a strong commitment to the proposed structural change by a range of community based service providers and other organizations, including existing providers, agencies designated by law to provide services, and other organizations. The intent is to include existing providers to the degree those providers are willing and able participate, and not duplicate services, or to abrogate existing law with regard to designated providers. However if designated or existing agencies are unable or unwilling to participate in a proposal, the proposal may include alternative providers.

**B. All proposals must describe how the proposal will integrate with and complement other related initiatives including other initiatives related to Challenges for Change, health care reform, the criminal justice system or other state or federal requests for proposals or grants.**

**C. Consideration shall be given to achieving broad geographic distribution of grants to help ensure statewide structural change. Proposals may be from large communities, counties, AHS districts or regions.**

**D. Proposals shall include one or more of the following populations, except that proposals for other populations with complicated medical or social needs may be**

approved at the discretion of the Secretary of Human Services based on the strength of proposed outcomes and savings.

1. individuals with disabilities, including mental health conditions, who are at risk of involvement with law enforcement, the criminal justice system or the Department of Corrections, with a goal of reducing the involvement with law enforcement and incarceration, consistent with the need for public safety;
2. families with multiple social needs and involvement with the Agency of Human Services with the goal of improved outcomes in attaining and retaining employment, maintaining stable and safe housing, reducing involvement with the division of family services, and improved health;
3. women involved with or at risk of becoming involved with law enforcement, the criminal justice system or the Department of Corrections with the goal of reducing involvement with law enforcement and incarceration;
4. families with a child or children with disabilities, including mental health conditions.

Proposals shall describe in detail:

1. the degree of community support and commitment, including the agencies organizations or individuals that have committed to help the proposal achieve its goals;
2. redundant or unnecessary administration that will be eliminated;
3. systemic changes in the service delivery system;
4. the estimated savings, reductions in trends, or avoided costs across the Agency of Human Services, the Department of Education or state agencies in fiscal years 2011 and 2012;
5. how the program changes established in the proposal will remain sustainable in fiscal year 2012 and later, and
6. the outcomes to be achieved and how they will be measured.

III. Time line and process for submission and approval of proposals

- A. All proposals must be received by the Agency of Human Services no later than 4:30 p.m. on August 17, 2010. Proposals may be mailed or e-mailed to the attention of Diane Nealy, Agency of Human Services, 103 S. Main St., Waterbury, VT 05676 - 0201, [diane.nealy@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:diane.nealy@ahs.state.vt.us)
- B. Proposals must address all requirements contained in this RFP.
- C. All proposals must be reviewed before submission by the local AHS Field Services Director.

- D. Proposals will be reviewed by the Challenges for Change Board described in Attachment B.
- E. The Agency of Human Services will give notice of approved proposals no later than September 15, 2010.
- F. A bidder's conference will be held on June 23, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon on Vermont Interactive Television to answer questions about the request for proposals and to explain the requirement for performance based contracts.
- G. Questions shall be submitted in writing or by e-mail to Patrick Flood, Deputy Secretary, AHS, 103 S. Main St., Waterbury, VT 05676, [patrick.flood@ahs.state.vt.us](mailto:patrick.flood@ahs.state.vt.us). All questions and answers will be posted on the AHS web site.

#### IV. Funds Available

- A. Up to \$2 million in state funds will be available for proposals, but are contingent upon federal funding which is anticipated but has not yet been appropriated to states.

Funds are one-time, available only in FY 2011.

Proposals must describe which proposed services, if any, are intended to be matched with federal funds, including Global Commitment funds, subject to approval by the Agency of Human Services.

- B. Proposals will be limited to no more than \$200,000 in state funds.
- C. Having matching funds from other sources such as local grants, private or community funds will make proposals more competitive.

#### V. Scoring

Proposals will be scored as follows:

	<u>Points</u>
1. Degree to which the requirements of this RFP are met	10
2. Projected savings, return on investment	30
3. Likelihood of achieving proposed outcomes	20
4. Degree of community support and involvement	10
5. Degree of positive structural change in service provision	20
6. Extent of matching funds	10

- VI. All contracts issued as a result of this RFP will be performance based contracts. Funding shall be contingent on achieving outcomes. Sufficient funding will be released upon signing of the contract to begin work on the proposal. However,

some portion of the funding will be reserved pending determination that outcomes are being met.

- VII. The state reserves the right to reject all proposals or to withdraw the request for proposals.

# Attachment A

No. 68

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providers to use payment methods to achieve spending five percent less in fiscal year 2011 than in fiscal year 2010 and 10 percent less in fiscal year 2012 than in fiscal year 2010, while maintaining or improving service.

(4) Outcomes-based contracts with the designated agencies. Improve the outcomes of individuals and families served by the 17 agencies designated under 18 V.S.A. § 8905 to provide mental health services and services to individuals with a developmental disability, while spending five percent less in fiscal year 2011 than in fiscal year 2010 and 7.5 percent less in fiscal year 2012 than in fiscal year 2010, by enhancing collaboration among these agencies and by redesigning the contracts.

(b) The agency of human services shall be governed by the general outcomes in subdivision (1) of this subsection, while achieving the specific outcomes in subdivision (2):

(1) General outcomes.

(A) Children, families, and individuals are engaged in and contribute to their community's decisions and activities.

(B) Pregnant women and children thrive.

(C) Children are ready for school.

(D) Children succeed in school.

(E) Children live in safe, nurturing, stable, supported families.

(F) Youths choose healthy behaviors.

(G) Youths successfully transition to adulthood.

(H) Elders, people with disabilities, and individuals with mental health conditions live with dignity and independence in settings they prefer.

(I) Families and individuals live in safe and supportive communities.

(J) Adults lead healthy and productive lives.

(K) Vermonters receive affordable and appropriate health care at the appropriate time, and health care costs are contained over time.

(L) Families and individuals move out of poverty through education and advancement in employment.

(2) Specific outcomes.

(A) Client-centered intake.

(i) Individuals and families will direct their own lives and will be supported in pursuing their own choices, goals, aspirations, and preferences.

(ii) Individuals and families will have access to apply for health and human services programs for which they are eligible through any department or office of the agency.

(B) Client-centered coordinated and managed services.

(i) Individuals and families will direct their own lives and will be supported in pursuing their own choices, goals, aspirations, and preferences.

(ii) The individual will be at the core of all plans and services and will be treated with dignity and respect.

(iii) Individuals and families with multiple needs will have coordinated services with a single point of accountability to manage the services.

(iv) The agency and service providers will work across departments and organizations to interweave funding sources to ensure efficient and effective use of available funds to meet individuals' and families' needs in order to promote the outcomes in this subsection (b).

(v) The agency and service providers will involve employees and consumers of services in developing the strategies to meet these outcomes.

(C) Support services promoting independence of elders and individuals with disabilities.

(i) All service providers will have performance measures or indicators based on the outcomes in this subsection (b).

(ii) The individual's personal and economic independence will be promoted.

(iii) Families who choose to be caregivers will be supported to provide available and appropriate services for elders and individuals with disabilities.

(iv) Families will receive relief from caregiving responsibilities in order to continue to provide care over the long term.

(D) Expand the policy of using payment methods based on outcome measures.

(i) The administrative and reporting burden for nongovernmental service providers will be reduced.

(ii) Each nongovernmental service provider will have performance measures or indicators based on the outcomes provided for in this subsection (b).

(iii) Nongovernmental service providers will report performance measures or indicators of outcomes once for all grants or contracts with the agency to ensure efficient and simple administration.

(E) Outcome-based contracts with the designated agencies.

(i) The administrative and reporting burden for the designated agencies will be reduced.

(ii) The designated agencies will have performance measures or indicators based on the outcomes provided for in this subsection (b).

(iii) The designated agencies will report performance measures or indicators of outcomes once for all grants or contracts with the agency to ensure efficient and simple administration.

(c) Design and implementation: Within four weeks of the enactment of this legislation, the persons to whom these challenges are issued shall provide the general assembly and the committees of jurisdiction with the following:

reinvested in programs and services which will reduce the number of people entering the criminal justice system and decrease the recidivism of those who do enter the system.

(b) Outcomes:

(1) The number of people returned to prison for technical violation of probation and parole, while ensuring public safety, shall decrease.

(2) The number of people coming into the corrections system shall decrease.

(3) The number of nonviolent offenders diverted from prison into the community while ensuring public safety and providing effective consequences for criminal behavior shall increase.

(4) Recidivism shall decrease.

(5) A unified crime prevention and justice system shall be established.

(6) Revenues realized within the corrections system from programs designed to develop skills of offenders shall increase.

(7) Short-term lodgings in department of corrections facilities shall decrease.

(c) Design and implementation: Within four weeks of the enactment of this legislation, the persons to whom these challenges are issued shall provide the general assembly and the committees of jurisdiction with the following:

(1) A progress report on the plan of implementation.

# Attachment B

BILL AS PASSED BY THE HOUSE AND SENATE  
2010

H.792  
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## § 2032. ROLE OF DEPARTMENT OF VERMONT HEALTH ACCESS

(a) The department of Vermont health access shall provide the clinical utilization review board with data support to enable the board to conduct reviews.

(b) The department's program integrity unit shall inform the board of practices the unit has identified through its reviews in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

(c) The department shall provide members of the board with per diem compensation.

(d) The department shall have the final authority to evaluate and implement the board's recommendations.

(e) The department shall conduct comprehensive evaluations of the board's success in improving clinical and utilization outcomes using claims data and a survey of health care professional satisfaction. The department shall report annually by January 15 to the house committee on health care and the senate committee on health and welfare regarding the results of the most recent evaluation or evaluations and a summary of the board's activities and recommendations since the last report.

(f) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 25 of Title 3 as needed to implement specific recommendations.

\* \* \* All Populations – Miscellaneous \* \* \*

## Sec. C35. AHS; REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

(a)(1) By June 15, 2010, the agency of human services shall issue an initial request for proposals from community-based service providers and other organizations to provide services to clients of the agency through a performance-based contract as provided for in this section. The proposals shall be due to the agency no later than August 15, 2010. The agency shall make decisions on the initial round of proposals no later than September 15, 2010.

(2) The proposals shall be designed to:

(A) meet the outcomes for clients provided for in Sec. 4 (human services) or 5 (corrections) of No. 68 of the Acts of the 2009 Adj. Sess. (2010);

(B) provide for structural change in the method of service delivery by integrating services in the local community for clients of the agency with complicated social and medical issues in a client-centered manner; and

(C) demonstrate a strong commitment by a range of community-based service providers and other organizations, including by

existing providers, agencies designated by law to provide services, and other organizations.

(3) Each request for proposal shall include one of the following populations, and additional requests may include other populations with complicated social and medical needs in the discretion of the secretary of human services:

(A) individuals with mental health conditions and individuals with disabilities who are at risk of involvement with law enforcement, the criminal judicial system, or the department of corrections with a goal of reducing the involvement with law enforcement and incarceration;

(B) families with multiple social needs and involvement with the agency of human services with the goal of improved outcomes in attaining and retaining employment, maintaining stable and safe housing, reducing involvement of the division of family services, and improved health;

(C) women involved or at risk of becoming involved with the department of corrections with the goal of reducing incarceration;

(D) individuals at risk of inpatient hospitalization for a psychiatric need; and

(E) in addition to the pilot projects provided for in Sec C9 of this act, families which include children with disabilities, including mental health conditions.

(b) The agency may invest up to \$2 million from its appropriation in Sec. D.106(c)(i)(C) of H.789 of 2010, plus any available matching funds, in these proposals for the purpose of saving \$2 million through changes which improve service delivery or client outcomes as described in Secs. 4 and 5 of No. 68 of the Acts of the 2009 Adj. Sess. (2010).

(c) The request for proposals shall provide for an ongoing application process in order to ensure an appropriate implementation of proposals over time. Community-based service providers and other organizations may apply jointly to provide multiple services across more than one organization. Prior to submitting a proposal, an interested organization or organizations shall attend a workshop offered by the agency of human services describing the goals and requirements for the proposals.

(d) After receiving proposals and prior to approval, the agency shall submit the proposal to the Challenges for Change board, created in Sec. C36 of this act, for review and a recommendation. The agency shall issue performance-based contracts for proposals after receiving the board's recommendations on the proposals as provided for in Sec. C36 of this act.

(e) The agency shall require that any proposals funded under this section shall identify the following:

(1) the degree of community support and commitment;

(2) any redundant or unnecessary administration that will be eliminated;

(3) any systemic changes in the service delivery system;

(4) the estimated savings, reductions in trend, or avoided costs across the agency of human services, the department of education, or other state agencies in fiscal years 2011 and 2012; and

(5) how the program changes established in the proposal will remain sustainable in fiscal year 2012 and later.

(f) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to waive or abrogate existing law.

**Sec. C36. AGENCY OF HUMAN SERVICES; CHALLENGES FOR CHANGE BOARD**

(a) Creation of board. There is created in the agency of human services a Challenges for Change board to review and make recommendations on proposals from community-based service providers and other organizations as provided for in Sec. C35 of this act.

(b) Membership. The Challenges for Change board shall be composed of seven members representing the agencies, consumers, and service providers of the populations described in the requests for proposals being considered. The members shall be as follows:

(1) the secretary of human services or designee;

(2) three consumer representatives, one each appointed by the governor, the speaker of the house, and the senate committee on committees; and

(3) three individuals with relevant professional experience who are no longer employed by an agency or organization serving the populations identified in the request for proposals, one each appointed by the governor, the speaker of the house, and the senate committee on committees.

(c) Powers and duties.

(1) The board shall review the proposals received in response to the request issued by the agency of human services under Sec. C35 of this act and make a recommendation to the secretary of human services on which proposals should be accepted by the secretary or designee.

(2) The board shall comply with the public information law in subchapter 2 of chapter 5 of Title 1, and the public records law in subchapter 3 of chapter 5 of Title 1. The board shall receive administrative and other support from the agency of human services secretary's office.

(d) Report. The board shall report on a quarterly basis as provided for in Sec. H4 of this act.

(e) Number of meetings; term of committee. The board may meet as needed and shall cease to exist on June 30, 2012.

(f) Reimbursement. For attendance at meetings, consumers or family members of consumers on the committee shall be reimbursed at the per diem rate set in 32 V.S.A. § 1010 plus mileage reimbursement consistent with that established for state employees.

**Sec. C37. INTENT; SAVINGS TARGETS**

It is the intent of the general assembly that the agency of human services, community organizations, and other stakeholders continue to work on initiatives contained in the Challenges for Change Progress Report dated March 30, 2010; initiatives identified during the 2010 legislative session, which are contained in hard copy as the legislative record for this act; and new initiatives to achieve the savings targets identified in No. 68 of the Acts of the 2009 Adj. Sess. (2010).

**Sec. C38. QUARTERLY REPORTS**

As part of its quarterly reports pursuant to Sec. H4 of this act, the agency of human services shall provide an update regarding:

(1) its efforts to develop coordinated and streamlined quality review processes for all services provided by the designated agencies and specialized service agencies;

(2) the progress by the department of disabilities, aging, and independent living efforts to reduce utilization of nursing home beds;

(3) the progress in planning for the redesign of the Woodside juvenile rehabilitation center;

(4) the implementation of the specialized case management program established in Reach Up under Sec. C12 of this act.

(5) the progress on continued collaboration with community organizations and other stakeholders to develop existing or new proposals as described in Sec. C37 of this act.

**Sec. C39. ALLOCATION OF ENHANCED FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE; BUDGET DIFFERENTIAL**